

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Listing of the Claims:

Claim 1. (*Currently amended*) A catamenial tampon comprising:

a compressed absorbent member having an inner region and an exterior surface,
said compressed absorbent member comprising an absorbent material;
said absorbent material having a first surface opposed to a second surface and an
insertion end opposed to a withdrawal end;
a fluid wicking overwrap substantially covering said first surface and said second
surface of said absorbent material;
said fluid wicking overwrap extending beyond the withdrawal end of said
absorbent material to form a fluid wicking skirt portion;
said fluid wicking overwrap substantially covering said exterior surface of the
compressed absorbent member; and
a portion of said fluid wicking overwrap substantially permeating said inner
region of said compressed absorbent member.

Claim 2. (*Canceled*)

Claim 3. (*Original*) A tampon according to Claim 1 wherein the fluid wicking
overwrap comprises synthetic fibers and natural fibers.

Claim 4. (*Original*) A tampon according to Claim 3 wherein the ratio of the
synthetic fibers to natural fibers is from about 90:10 to about 30:70.

Claim 5. (*Original*) A tampon according to Claim 1 wherein the fluid wicking overwrap has a horizontal gravimetric wicking capacity with a range of from about 2 to about 6 grams of fluid per gram of tampon at a 500 second interval.

Claim 6. (*Original*) A tampon according to Claim 1 wherein said fluid wicking overwrap is hydroentangled and comprises about 50% rayon and about 50% polyester.

Claim 7. (*Canceled*)

Claim 8. (*Canceled*)

Claim 9. (*Currently amended*) A catamenial tampon comprising:

- a compressed absorbent member having an inner region and an exterior surface, said compressed absorbent member comprising an absorbent material;
- said absorbent material having a first surface opposed to a second surface and an insertion end opposed to a withdrawal end;
- a fluid wicking overwrap substantially covering said first surface and said second surface of said absorbent material;
- said fluid wicking overwrap extending beyond the withdrawal end of said absorbent material to form a fluid wicking skirt portion;
- said fluid wicking overwrap substantially covering said exterior surface of the compressed absorbent member;
- a portion of said fluid wicking overwrap substantially permeating said inner region of said compressed absorbent member; and
- a withdrawal means for removal of said tampon attached to said compressed absorbent member and extending beyond at least said withdrawal end.

Claim 10. (*Canceled*)

Claim 11. (*Original*) A tampon according to Claim 9 wherein the fluid wicking overwrap is 100% rayon.

Claim 12. (*Original*) A tampon according to Claim 9 wherein the fluid wicking overwrap has a horizontal gravimetric wicking capacity with a range from about 2.5 to about 5 grams of fluid per gram of tampon at a 500 second interval.

Claim 13. (*Previously presented*) A tampon according to Claim 9 wherein said fluid wicking overwrap comprises a 50% rayon 50% polypropylene thermally bonded blend.

Claim 14. (*Original*) A tampon according to Claim 9 wherein said skirt portion extends from 2 mm to 20 mm from said withdrawal end of said absorbent material.

Claim 15. (*Original*) A tampon according to Claim 14 wherein the fluid wicking overwrap comprises synthetic fibers and natural fibers.

Claim 16 - Claim 20 (*Canceled*)